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# U.S. Calls Its Libya View Sound

By GERALD M. BOYD
Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 27 — The White House issued a new statement on Libya today, saying its assertions that Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi was planning new acts of terrorism were based on "a realistic assessment" by American officials.

"The U.S. Government is dealing with realities in this situation," Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said. "This is a realistic assessment."

His statement today was the latest in a series of differing assessments from Administration officials in Washington and other officials there and in California, where President Reagan is vacationing.

Mr. Speakes has been the only White House official in California willing to speak on the record, although he too insisted on no attribution for some of his statements.

Today Mr. Speakes and other senior White House officials continued to refuse to disclose specific information to support the assertions.

At the same time, Mr. Speakes denied that his and other officials' statements about Libya in recent days were part of a disinformation campaign by the Administration.

On Monday, Mr. Speakes and another Administration official said the United States had reason to believe that Colonel Qaddafi, the Libyan leader, was planning new terrorist attacks. In doing so, the officials appeared to be encouraging speculation about new evidence of Libyan activities and possible American military responses.

But a day later, other officials expressed concern that the speculation had got out of hand. They said that while the United States had received indications that terrorist acts by Libya might be in the planning stage, it had no hard evidence. And they flatly denied suggestions of impending American military action.

Today, Mr. Speakes and other senior White House officials in California left unspecified the precise evidence to which they are referring, saying such a disclosure would compromise American intelligence-gathering abilities.

Mr. Speakes, however, said the information would be presented to allies of the United States next week during a mission to Europe by Vernon A. Walters, the chief American delegate to the United Nations.

The only condition under which White House officials would discuss the details or quality of the evidence was that they not be identified, and even then they would offer no details or specific examples.

During a briefing for reporters, the evidence was described as "hard," "fact" and "credible" but also described as coming in reports possessing "varying levels of credibility."

"Some are highly reliable, and others are things that we pick up in various locations that we can't afford to ignore, but at the same time, we want to check them further," a White House official said.

The official said that although he was not in a position to assess the information's validity, "obviously we do have intelligence reports that Qaddafi has not been deterred in his efforts to commit terrorist activities."

The comments today continued statements first made by White House officials on Monday when Mr. Speakes asserted that the Administration had "reason to believe" that Colonel Qaddafi had not "forsaken his desire to create terrorist activities" worldwide.

These comments were in response to questions about a report Monday in The Wall Street Journal. The article asserted that the Administration had indications that the Libyan leader had plans for more terrorist acts and was prepared to respond militarily, covertly and by economic means.

The senior White House official said today that although the newspaper report was "not authorized, it was highly authoritative."

Mr. Speakes, while declining to provide additional details about Colonel Qaddafi's reported terrorist activities, said the United States was not seeking to provoke the Libyan leader into some action that might touch off an American response similar to the bombing raid on Libya on April 15.

"Our goal is to prevent Qaddafi from doing things, not to provoke him," Mr. Speakes said.

The senior official, who asked not to be identified, denied an account in The Washington Post that Secretary of State George P. Shultz and William J. Casey, the Director of Central Intelligence, had recently devised a plan to provoke the Libyan leader.

"I just don't believe it's true," he said. "It just seems a little bit farfetched that would be done."

The official here added that the goal of the Administration had been "to fire a shot across the bow" of the Libyan leader to make sure he was aware of the Administration's concerns.

Mr. Speakes also disputed a report in The New York Times today that some Administration officials were concerned that the comments by White House aides were undercutting diplomatic efforts to isolate Libya. The officials, who were not identified, said the United States had no hard evidence that Libya was planning new terrorist attacks.

Mr. Speakes said the view probably came from "mid-level" officials in the Administration, who he suggested were uninformed.

"I haven't heard any specific concerns, and I think we have most of the highest level of Government present with him in California and not in Washington," he said. "So those who may be speculating on an unnamed basis in Washington may not be in the know of the thinking of our leadership that is present here in California."

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